

# 26 Russians Visit Capital

By ANN WOOD  
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There's a group of amiable Russians visiting Washington the way most people might tread on eggs. Of the 26 travelers, only one has visited the United States before, and their voyage of exploration comes at an awkward time between the Soviet Union and the New World.

The first stop on arriving Wednesday evening was the Soviet embassy, with another stop there due this afternoon.

Official help may get them the visas to Mexico that they so far have been unable to obtain. Reservations in Mexico have been cancelled, but the group still hopes to visit there and possibly in Cuba on the way home.

## 20 Journalists

Of the group, 20 are journalists—mostly for young people's publications—and well up on current events. The group is led by Leonid Keresedjants, chairman of the Soviet Bureau of International Youth Travel. Arrangements in the United States were made through the Council on Student Travel, with the Experiment in International Living handling the daily itinerary.

The knowledge that comes out in informal discussions was not displayed during an interview with Justice William O. Douglas yesterday. He welcomed the visitors and mentioned his many trips to the Soviet Union, during which he had visited "dozens and dozens" of their courts as well as travelling extensively. His most recent trip included a month last summer in Siberia.

He threw the floor open to any questions. The group responded politely with a number of noncontroversial questions on the setup of the Supreme Court.

In a classroom at Georgetown University last night, the Russians' "dander" was raised enough to get a discussion going. The instructor, Serge Levitsky, discussing the poems of Nicolai Ghumilev, said he had been shot in 1921, omitting that he had been shot by the Communists.

However, in a long discussion period at the end of the class the poet's merits came under attack by the visitors.

The discussion continued at a "coffee" given by the Russian Club of Georgetown, attended by a surprising number of pretty coeds who speak Russian fluently.

The visitors range in age from 24 to 42, with most in their early 30s. They arrived in New York Nov. 29 and spent six days with families in the Caldwell (N.J.) area.

Lev Nedosugov, editor of Young Technician—the Soviet Popular Mechanics—said next time he would like to stay with a typical worker's family, rather than with the "rich." He knew they were rich, because "they had 14 or 15 rooms, several cars, and the women didn't do any housework."

Edward Roesler, U.S. leader of the group, said the women in these families were almost too adept at concealing how hard they did work, while staying free to entertain their guests.

One family's hospitality unwittingly included a practical joke. The family was told by their guest's companions that he could eat only a restricted diet. The surprised Russian was fed only bananas and liquids until the joke came out.

## No Family Visits

There must be some "rich" in the Soviet Union. Anatoly Golubev stayed behind in New York trying to trace a lost \$700 camera.

Experiment groups going to Russia stay in youth camps rather than with any kind of family. No family stays have ever been obtained. The first request was made in 1957.

This morning the group was scheduled to be welcomed by the two top editors of the Washington Post, which recently had its Moscow correspondent expelled from the Soviet Union.

Tonight two cocktail parties will be given for the group in Georgetown, one by Drew Pearson, and the other by Gloriann Scorsone on behalf of the U.S. Youth Council. Tomorrow, before leaving for New Orleans, the visitors will meet Ambassador W. Averell Harriman.

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